



CAMPUS MINISTRY

Incarnate Word High School was founded by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. In that same spirit of love, compassion and Judeo-Christian values we strive to provide our students with many opportunities to grow in their faith.

Our community shares in Mass together at least once a month including all major feast days and school celebrations. We invite the students to participate in all aspects of the worship services as readers, musicians, Eucharistic ministers or greeters. Mass is held before school every Thursday for members of our community who would like to begin their morning with the Eucharistic celebration. Each class attends a day-long or over-night retreat. This is another way for the girls to see one another in the light of Christ. Every spring a group of our students participate in the Immersion Trip in South Texas. This four day long service trip introduces our young women to other people's ways of life. Campus Ministry is designed to encourage and foster the faith lives of our students while encouraging and providing opportunities for service to the school and the wider community. When needed, each student is given assistance to discern her gifts and how she can best serve others.

In the spirit of Christian service that encouraged and influenced the first Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Incarnate Word High School seeks to "foster a sensitivity to and a recognition of social problems and injustices, and to engender a responsibility and an inclination toward corrective action voluntarily undertaken." (Mission Statement of Congregation) The graduation requirement of one hundred service hours is one way for the students to share in this spirit of Christian service and social justice. The goal is to serve in light of the mission of Christ. In deciding what specific activities fulfill the service requirement, the most important criterion is one of need. Students are encouraged to identify needs in the community and to commit the greater percentage of service hours to those needs.

"The person who performs works of mercy should do so cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8) In serving, we recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom, and source of all. We must be grateful for the gifts we have received and be eager to use them to show others our love for God and one another. The practice of service enables us, as Christians, to measure the extent of our faith in and love of Jesus by the kind and quality of the volunteerism we perform. In the spirit of volunteerism, it is important to state that all service done must be done without pay. Any work done for a for-profit organization, which does not have community service as its purpose, may not be counted toward a student's service requirement. Work done for the family or family business will not be counted as Service Hours for any student. Additionally, service done for any political candidate or organization to further the candidates' agenda will not be counted towards their service hours for school. You are encouraged, but not required to commit all of your service time to one organization to gain the benefit of having made a commitment to a specific group of people. Incoming freshman are permitted to accumulate service project hours during the summer if they meet the requirements and complete the required documentation.

Possible Organizations for Community Service include: Retirement centers, nursing homes, hospitals, programs for persons with disabilities, church ministry, food and clothing banks, non-profit thrift stores, family or children's shelters, family outreach programs, libraries, literacy programs, summer or after school children's programs, Parks and Recreation volunteer programs, Christmas or Thanksgiving charity projects. Others to consider are service organizations such as the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the United Way, or the YMCA-YWCA.

For more information, calendars, photos, service documentation, etc. log on to:
<http://www.incarnatewordhs.org/campusministry/index.htm>